



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

August 3, 2005

ICE AGENTS ARREST 16 IN OPERATION TARGETING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT SALES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

-- Arrests are the Latest in "Operation Card Shark" --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Special agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Washington, DC office arrested 16 individuals at five separate locations and seized counterfeit documents in a continuing operation to disrupt and dismantle continuing false document, open-air markets in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, D.C., and Hyattsville, Md.

Yesterday, ICE agents assisted by U.S. Secret Service agents executed a search warrant at 526 Tuckerman Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. There, agents discovered and seized fraudulent social security cards, laminating machines, typewriters, and 21 bags of documentary evidence. Agents also arrested an illegal alien at the location who remains in custody on immigration violations and could face criminal charges.

At 754 Harvard Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C., ICE and Secret Service agents arrested another illegal alien and received consent to conduct a search of the residence. During the search, agents discovered a firearm, several bags of fraudulent document stock; including fraudulent social security cards, laminates, a typewriter and a laminating machine. The individual remains in custody on criminal charges of alien in possession of a firearm.

ICE agents also arrested four illegal aliens at 754 Morton Street, N.W., as part of the fraudulent document investigation. The individuals are suspected of being fraudulent document vendors and could face criminal charges. At 4910 Kansas Avenue NW, agents apprehended eight undocumented aliens, who are being detained on administrative immigration charges. In Hyattsville, MD, ICE agents arrested two additional illegal aliens associated with the fraudulent document organization. All these individuals could face criminal charges.

"These arrests demonstrate our continuing commitment to rid the D.C. area of fraudulent document organizations. False identity documents pose a serious homeland security threat in that they can be provided to criminals and terrorists and used for virtually any purpose. Working with our law enforcement partners, we will continue to target these organizations," said Alan Doody, Special Agent In Charge of ICE Washington DC Office.

This law enforcement action was a joint operation in support of an ongoing ICE initiative called “Operation Card Shark.” The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, U.S. Secret Service Uniform Division, Social Security Administration’s Office of the Inspector General, and the Metropolitan Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Since May 2002, Operation Card Shark has identified several document vending organizations and has dismantled three of them. Eleven search warrants have been executed, five document “mills” have been shut down, approximately 10,000 documents have been seized (with an estimated street value of \$450,000), over 159 aliens have been apprehended, 40 have been prosecuted.

A conviction for fraudulent immigration documents (18 USC 1546) is punishable by up to ten years in prison or \$250,000 fine, or both.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.